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September 30, 1977

Admiral Stansfield Turner, U.S. Navy
Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Stan:

I'd like you to know that I very strongly support the control mechanisms and general movement toward some centralization of our intelligence activities in the government. Although I am not privy to all that is going on and garner my information through the public press, I nevertheless applaud any moves that could both improve our intelligence capability and reduce the costs somewhat.

I don't know how you fit into the Panama Canal picture, but all of the current controversy and discussions surrounding the Treaty reminded me of a study that I ran while [redacted]. The study was requested by the Chairman and we were charged with looking at the political and economic significance of the Panama Canal to the United States. The conclusions of the study were, and I strongly supported them, that the Canal was neither militarily, nor economically vital to the U.S. or, for that matter, to many other nations of the world. Our work was based in part on studies done by others, but we also did some original work in the area of military requirements. The findings were not popular with the Chiefs one and one-half years ago, but perhaps the climate has changed now. The thought came to mind that perhaps this study, conducted prior to the Carter election, might be useful in helping bring some treaty opponents over to the Administration's side.

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If there is ever anything that I can do for you on a contingency basis or incident to travel that I undertake, you might let me know. Perhaps I could lend a hand.

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